

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 25, 46, 48 and 49 are allowed. In order to expedite further processing of this case, applicants are amending each of their remaining independent claims to recite, in combination, the feature pointed out in allowable claim 49 that a texture coordinate processor interleaves the processing of direct and indirect texture coordinates. Based upon the Examiner's indications, it appears that these claimed combinations may now also be allowable for the same reason that the Examiner found claim 49 to be allowable. Applicants make this claim amendment without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants' right to contend patentability and/or request further or different claim scope by way of a continuation application or otherwise.

In connection with discussion presented in the previous response, applicant's further close review of the Gossett reference reveals that it mentions "transparency" in the context of a "typical graphics computer" (see column 1, line 61). See also column 7, line 67 – column 8, line 1 of Gossett which refers to a "4 component, 12 bit color (or other equivalent quantity)"

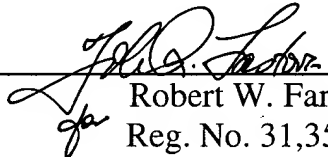
In addition, applicants apprise the Examiner of this case that Examiner Tran of Art Unit 2676 issued a further rejection on 10/8/03 in related copending commonly-assigned application serial no. 09/726,212 rejecting the claims in that other case as unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,597,363 to Duluk Jr. et al. A copy of the Duluk patent is attached along with a form PTO-1449 listing same. Applicants request the USPTO to cite and consider Duluth in this case. A \$180 fee is being submitted concurrently herewith.

DREBIN et al
Appl. No. 09/722,313
February 25, 2004

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and allow this case based on the claim amendments and the above remarks. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so that all such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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